

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

RSR-01 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 NEA-10 TRSE-00

MBFR-03 SAJ-01 EB-11 ACDA-19 IO-13 AEC-11 /159 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6231

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM, GW, US, MARR, MILI

SUBJECT: DEPUTY SECRETARY'S STATEMENT TO HOUSE COMMITTEE ON US TROOP PRESENCE--INITIAL GERMAN REACTION

SUMMARY: BOTH FRG PRESS AND OUR FOREIGN OFFICE AND DEFENSE MINISTRY CONTACTS HAVE STRONGLY WELCOMED DEPUTY SECRETARY RUSH'S STRONG JULY 10 STATEMENT TO THE HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE AGAINST UNILATERAL REDUCTIONS IN US TROOP DEPLOYMENTS IN EUROPE. THE DEPUTY SECRETARY REMARKS WERE REPORTED APPROVINGLY IN KEY GERMAN DAILIES, AS WELL AS ON GERMAN RADIO AND TV. END SUMMARY.

1. THE DPA CARRIED A REPORT ON THE RUSH STATEMENT WHICH WAS REPRINTED IN SEVERAL NEWSPAPERS. DPA EMPHASIZED RUSH'S STATEMENT THAT UNILATERAL US TROOP REDUCTIONS WOULD LEAD TO A "CATASTROPHIC" WEAKENING OF EFFORTS TOWARDS A VIABLE DEFENSE IN WESTERN EUROPE. DPA QUOTED RUSH AS STATING FIRMLY THAT THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION WAS "UNEQUIVOCALLY OPPOSED" TO ANY UNILATERAL REDUCTION OF AMERICAN FORCES IN EUROPE. DPA ALSO HIGH-

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LIGHTED RUSH'S WARNING THAT THE PROCESS OF DETENTE

BETWEEN EAST AND WEST SHOULD NOT LEAD TO A FALSE FEELING OF SECURITY. HE IS QUOTED AS STRESSING THAT EVEN IN A PERIOD OF "RELATIVE DETENTE" IN EUROPE "THAT A SITUATION COULD COME ABOUT IN WHICH THE SOVIET UNION COULD WISH TO EXERT MILITARY PRESSURE ON A NEUTRAL NEIGHBOR OR ON A NEIGHBORING NATO MEMBER." THE DEPUTY SECRETARY ADDED THAT WARSAW PACK ARMAMENTS, ESPECIALLY TANKS AND ARTILLERY, HAD SURPASSED THOSE OF NATO. THE ARTICLE CONCLUDED BY NOTING THAT RUSH WAS THE FIRST OF SEVERAL ADMINISTRATION SPOKESMEN WHO WOULD DEFEND THE PRESENCE OF US TROOPS IN EUROPE BEFORE THE COMMITTEE THIS WEEK.

2. A SIMILAR REPORT BY WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT EMIL BOELTE WAS CARRIED BY THE KOELNER STAD-ANZEIGER AND THE WEST DEUTSCHE ALLGEMEINE ZEITUNG. BOELTE STRESSED THE COORDINATED ATTACK BY MANY SPEAKERS BEING PLANNED BY THE ADMINISTRATION THIS WEEK AND REPORTED RUSH AS WARNING THAT A WITHDRAWAL MIGHT LEAD TO NEUTRALIZATION OF SUCH COUNTRIES AS WEST GERMANY, ITALY AND FRANCE.

3. EDITORIAL COMMENTARY WAS LIMITED GIVEN EARLY GERMAN PRESS DEADLINE. BUT THE FRANKFURTER NEUE PRESSE DID OBSERVE THAT, IN VIEW OF THE RUSH STATEMENT, THOSE WHO FELT ALARMED BY THE DROPPING OF THE TERM "BALANCED" FROM MBFR AND DUE TO THE DOLLAR CRISIS "CAN NOW GATHER FRESH HOPE" REGARDING USG INTENTIONS. THE NEUE PRESSE EDITORIAL, VIRTUALLY ENTIRE TEXT OF WHICH WAS TRANSMITTED BY USIS, ADDED:

QUOTE. RUSH IS AMONG THE WARNERS AGAINST FALSE FEELINGS OF SECURITY. BY DOING SO HE GRATES ON THE NERVES OF HIS COUNTRYMEN. TO DO SO AND TO RISK UNPOPULARITY, TODAY REQUIRES CONSIDERABLE COURAGE, PARTICULARLY IN US WHOSE CONGRESS HAS TO DEAL AGAIN

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AND AGAIN WITH RESOLUTIONS ON THE MANSFIELD PATTERN, WHICH CALL FOR TROOP REDUCTIONS. AS FORMER US AMBASSADOR TO GERMANY, RUSH CAN ARGUE ESPECIALLY EFFECTIVELY THAT A TROOP PULLBACK WOULD PRODUCE GRAVE AND POSSIBLY IRREPARABLE CONSEQUENCES FOR THE US. MOSCOW PROBABLY WILL REACT TO THESE WARNINGS OVER SENSITIVELY SINCE RUSH ALSO STRESSED THE NEED FOR PLACING EMPHASIS ON CONVENTIONAL DETERRENCE--A NEED WHICH STEMS FROM SOVIET CONVENTIONAL SUPERIORITY. IN VIEW OF THE COMING MBFR NEGOTIATIONS, MILITARY REALITIES MUST NOT BE VEILED. UNILATERAL CONCESSIONS WOULD BE MISUSED. THE CONFEREES SHOULD FORCE THEMSELVES EARLY ENOUGH TO PLAY WITH OPEN CARDS. END QUOTE.

4. BOTH FONOFF AND DEFMIN CONTACTS CALLED EMBASSY TODAY TO EXPRESS WARM APPRECIATION FOR MR. RUSH'S STATEMENT. IN CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF JULY 12, FONOFF ACTING US DESK OFFICER MADE HIGHLY POSITIVE COMMENTS ABOUT THE DEPUTY SECRETARY'S REMARKS. HE SAID THAT

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ALTHOUGH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAD OBVIOUSLY HAD TIME TO EXAMINE THE STATEMENT ONLY IN PRELIMINARY FASHION SO FAR, HE WAS SURE THAT THE FINAL ASSESSMENT WOULD BE AS POSITIVE AS HIS OWN PERSONAL ONE. HE ESPECIALLY WELCOMED THE FACT THAT THE ADMINISTRATION APPEARED WILLING AND READY TO GO ON THE ATTACK ON THIS MOST IMPORTANT SECURITY ISSUE.

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